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OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH • Center for Preventive Health

Maternal & Child Health Program • (504) 568-5073

# SIDS Fast Facts

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- ❖ Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the “sudden death of an infant under 1 year of age, which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation, including: a complete autopsy, death scene investigation, and a review of the medical history.” (Willinger et al., 1991)’
- ❖ SIDS is also called “crib death,” but it is not caused by an infant sleeping in a crib.
- ❖ SIDS is the leading cause of unexpected death rates in infants 1 month to 1 year of age.
- ❖ Babies who sleep on their backs have a much lower risk of dying from SIDS or from suffocation.
- ❖ From January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2001, 100 deaths of children under age 2 involved an accident with an adult bed; 98% of deaths were infants under 1-year-old.
- ❖ To prevent entrapment between the bed and the wall or the bed and another object babies should never be placed on an adult bed.
- ❖ Falls from adult beds onto piles of clothing, plastic bags, or other soft materials often result in suffocation and other injuries.
- ❖ According to the National Vital Statistics Report, 2001, there were 2,151 SIDS deaths in 2001 in the United States (0.52 deaths per 1,000 live births).

Source: National SIDS Resource Center